

B<sup>1</sup>  
cont

2 (Amended). An isolated and purified DNA fragment according to claim 1 wherein, F1 capsular antigen of *Y. pestis* is fused at its carboxyl [terminal] terminus to amino [acid] terminus of V antigen of *Yersinia pestis*.

Sub C<sup>2</sup>

3 (Amended). An isolated and purified DNA fragment according to claim 2, wherein said fragment has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 [or a portion thereof], or [an allelic portion] a natural or synthetic variant thereof.

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B<sup>2</sup>  
Sub C<sup>3</sup>

5 (Amended). The F1-V DNA fragment according to claim [4] 3, wherein said DNA fragment encodes [the] an amino acid sequence [according] specified in [to] SEQ ID NO:2 [or a portion thereof] or a natural or synthetic variant encoding F1 and V antigens.

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B<sup>3</sup>

7 (Amended). A recombinant DNA construct comprising:

- (i) a vector, and
  - (ii) an isolated and purified F1-V DNA fragment which encodes all [or a portion] of F1 capsular antigen of *Yersinia pestis* and all [or a portion] of V antigen of *Yersinia pestis*.
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B<sup>4</sup>

13 (Amended). A host cell transformed with a recombinant DNA construct comprising:

(i) a vector, and

B4  
cont

(ii) a F1-V DNA fragment which encodes [521 amino acids of F1-V which encodes] all [or a portion of] F1 capsular antigen of *Yersinia pestis* and all [or a portion] of V antigen of *Yersinia pestis*..

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B5

17 (Amended). A method for producing F1-V protein which comprises culturing host cells transformed with an expression vector containing a DNA fragment encoding all [or a portion] of F1 capsular protein of *Yersinia pestis* and all [or a portion] of V antigen of *Yersinia pestis*, under conditions such that said DNA fragment is expressed and said F1-V protein is thereby produced, and isolating said F1-V protein.

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Kindly add the following new claims.

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Sub  
D1

B6

--31. An isolated and purified DNA fragment comprising a *Yersinia pestis* F1 capsular antigen fused at its carboxyl terminus to an amino terminus of a V antigen from other *Yersinia* species having a V antigen homologous to *Yersinia pestis* V antigen.

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32. The isolated and purified DNA fragment according to claim 31, wherein said other *Yersinia* species are chosen from the group consisting essentially of *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* and *Yersinia enterocolitica*..--

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